Scanner and Editor:
ENIGMA
Translator:
HIYUKI
Cross-checker:
YUKI
http://iskultrip.maryfaye.net

WE NEED
JAPANESE TRANSLATORS!
EMAIL US
ENIGMASCANS@YAHOO.COM
VISIT US AT
ISKULTRIP.MARYFAYE.NET

FILE.8「ヴァンパイアシンドローム 前編」

Vampire Syndrome (PART 1)

A"
A"
A"
SFX: DASH
A"
A"
A"
A"
A"
HANA-
SEN-
PAAAAI!

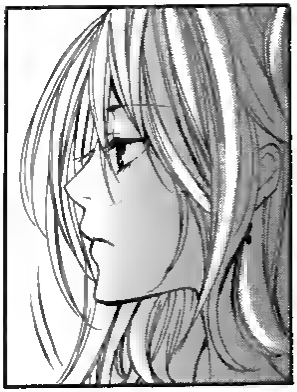
さっ
SFX EVADE
SFX POUNCE

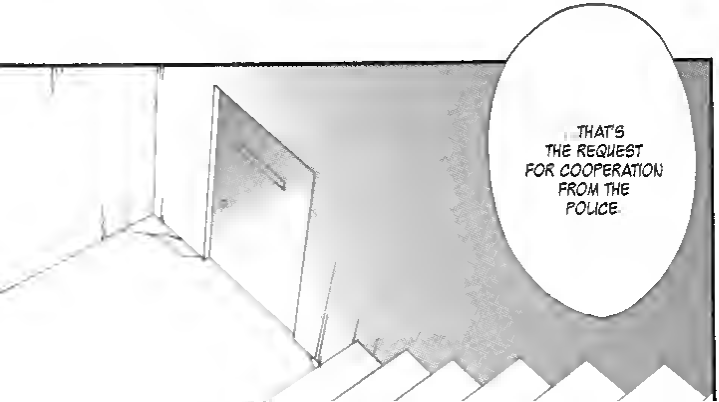
UM, PARDON ME, HEMURA-SENPAI!
I I GET IT... NOW GET OFF
NOW THERE'S A VICTIM FROM THIS SCHOOL, TOO!
A VICTIM OF THE INCIDENTS INVOLVING A SERIAL PHANTOM KILLER!
WHAT'S UP, RANKO-CHAN?
Sorry!
Sorry!

I HEARD THAT THERE WERE NO DEATHS
YES. THE VICTIMS SUFFERED ONLY MINOR INJURIES.
REALLY?
...
IT'S STILL A CASE, THOUGH.
IT'S SCARY THERE'S ALSO A STRANGE RUMOR GOING AROUND
THERE HASN'T BEEN A SERIAL KILLER SINCE THE TIME OF THE "NIGHT BLINDNESS MAN".

"A VAMPIRE HAILING FROM EUROPE IS HIDING IN THE TOWN'S MIDST"...
...I THINK WAS IT.

WHAT A WORTHLESS RUMOR

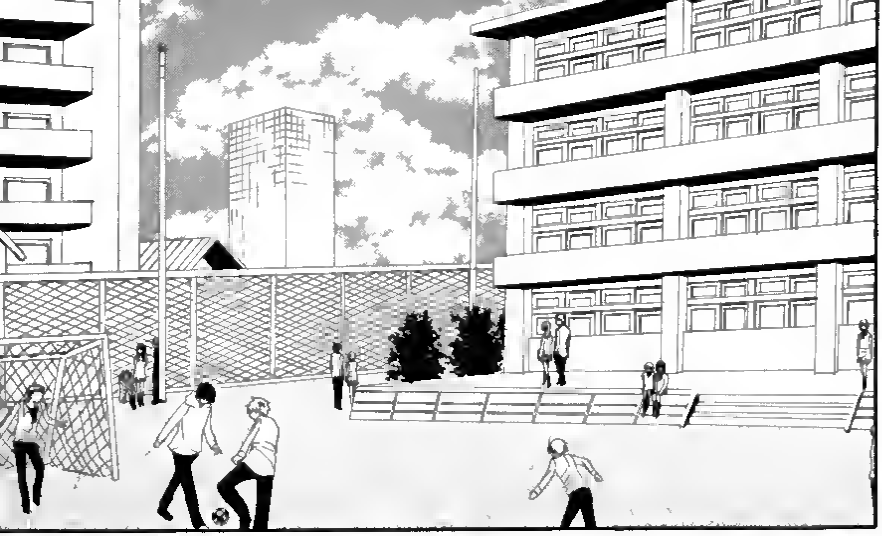


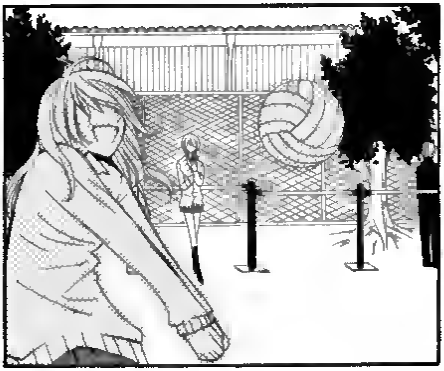

...THAT'S THE REQUEST FOR COOPERATION FROM THE POLICE.

WHAT ON EARTH ARE THE POLICE TRYING TO DO...?
YOU KNOW ABOUT THE RECENT INCIDENTS INVOLVING THE SERIAL PHANTOM ATTACKER, DON'T YOU?
SO WE'RE TO INVESTIGATE THIS RUMOR OF A "VAMPIRE" HIDING IN THE CITY?
IT SEEMS THAT A SMALL AMOUNT OF BLOOD WAS TAKEN FROM THE VICTIMS,
ON TOP OF GETTING BITTEN.
THEY WERE BITTEN AND HAD THEIR BLOOD TAKEN?! Y-YOU MEAN... LIKE IT WAS SUCKED OUT?!
IT WOULD SEEM SO. TO PREVENT THE RUMORS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES FROM SPREADING AROUND, THE POLICE HAVE IMPOSED RESTRAINTS ON THE PRESS

UGHH... I FEEL SICK...
IS THERE A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE PHANTOM ATTACKER AND THE RUMORS...?
IT SEEMS THE POLICE THINK SO.
Hmm.
SO, THAT MEANS INVESTIGATING ALL THE RUMORS THAT COULD BE RELEVANT TO SOLVING THE CASE
...ISN'T IT STRANGE?
...WHAT IS?
THE DETAILS OF THE REQUEST WHY AREN'T THEY GIVING MORE?
THEY'RE ONLY TELLING US TO INVESTIGATE LEADS FROM THE RUMORS AND FIND THE PERPETRATOR.

YOU FIND IT ODD TO INVESTIGATE RUMORS ALONE?
WE'RE THE "RUMOR SHOP".
DON'T INVESTIGATE MORE THAN WHAT IS NECESSARY JUST FULFILL THE REQUEST
UNDER-STOOD.



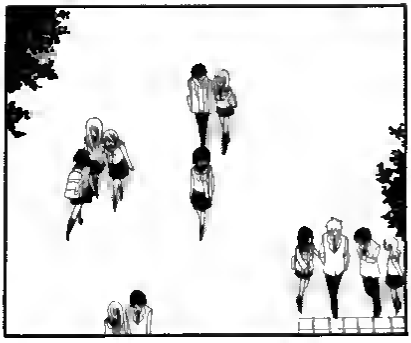


SFX: LOOKING AROUND

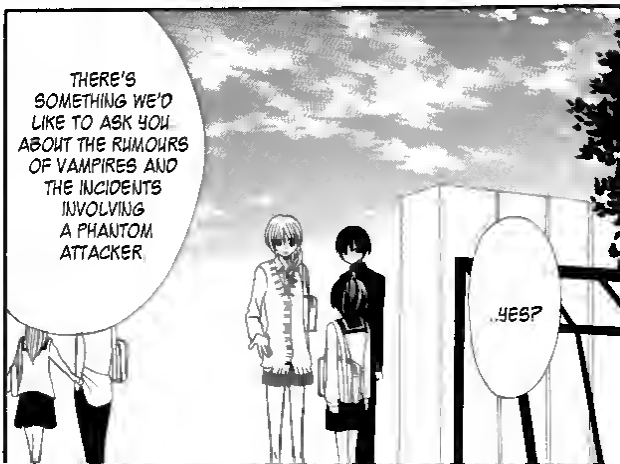
AHA! YOU'RE STILL WORRIED ABOUT ATTRACTING ATTENTION? DON'T WORRY, THERE'S A LIMIT TO HOW FAR RUMORS CAN GO.
NO, I JUST THINK THIS PLACE IS CONSPICIOUS.
HAVING NO EFFECT FEELS KIND OF COMPLICATED, TOO.
ズパッ
BEING WITH YOU WON'T BE ENOUGH TO HAVE ANY EFFECT!
YEAH. THERE'S A MIDDLE SCHOOL NEARBY. SEEMS LIKE A KID IS SPREADING THEM.
SHE EVEN UPLOADED "WITNESS ACCOUNTS OF VAMPIRES" ON HER BLOG
SO, I GOT RANKO-CHAN AND SOME OTHERS HELP OUT, AND FOUND SOMETHING INTERESTING
ABOUT THE RUMORS OF A "VAMPIRE".

トントン
THEY ALL MATCHED THE LOCATIONS OF THE INCIDENTS INVOLVING THE PHANTOM ATTACKER.
MULTIPLE ENCOUNTERS WITH URBAN LEGENDS?
IT'S WEIRD, ISN'T IT?
THEN, WHEN I CHECKED OUT THOSE "WITNESS ACCOUNTS"...
SO, JUST AS WE THOUGHT, THE RUMOURS AND THE INCIDENTS
...ARE CONNECTED.
IN THE MIND OF THAT GIRL, ANYWAY.

YOU'RE TAKEDA MEGUMI, RIGHT?



THE CAT'S ALREADY OUT OF THE BAG?


THERE'S SOMETHING WE'D LIKE TO ASK YOU ABOUT THE RUMOURS OF VAMPIRES AND THE INCIDENTS INVOLVING A PHANTOM ATTACKER.
YES?

HUH?
YES, I'M THE ONE RESPONSIBLE.

INTERROGATION ROOM
YEAH,
I'M THE ONE RESPON-SIBLE.
Y-YOU CERTAINLY WERE CAUGHT IN THE ACT. BUT SHOULD YOU ADMIT THAT SO EASILY? YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT

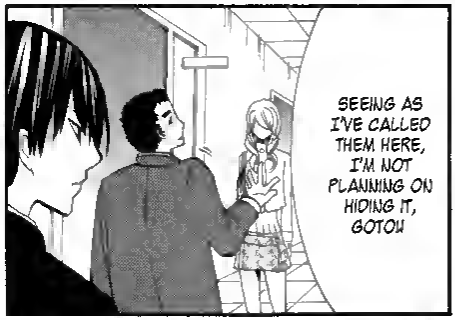
NOBUO-KUN.
YOUR CLASSMATES AND FAMILY DON'T BELIEVE THAT YOU'RE THE PHANTOM ATTACKER.
THEY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.
THOSE THINGS WERE DONE BY THE REAL ME

WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT, OOTA-SAN?
DON'T STRUT AROUND HERE, YOU'RE GOING TO ATTRACT ATTENTION...
ALL WE DID WAS INVESTIGATE THE RUMOURS,
BUT WE'VE SUDDENLY GOT SOMEONE CLAIMING TO BE THE PERPETRATOR.
OH! IT'S YOU, HANA-CHAN.

ANOTHER PERPETRATOR HAS ALREADY BEEN ARRESTED, RIGHT?
ON TOP OF THAT, WHEN WE BROUGHT HE KID HERE
HOW-EVER?
THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT THE KID YOU BROUGHT HERE IS THE CULPRIT BEHIND THE INCIDENTS INVOLVING THE PHANTOM ATTACKER. HER STATEMENT ACTUALLY MATCHES MOST OF THE VICTIMS' STATEMENTS.
THIS MAKES NO SENSE
HOWEVER...
DURING THE TIME THOSE INCIDENTS OCCURRED... TAKEDA MEGUMI HAD AN IRON-CLAD ALIBI
THAT KID... TAKEDA MEGUMI'S TESTIMONY AND THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF VICTIMS DO NOT MATCH...
THERE WERE MORE INCIDENTS

IF ONLY THAT WERE THE CASE ACTUALLY
THEY'RE ACCOM-PLICES?

DOES THAT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE OTHER CULPRIT?


SEEING AS I'VE CALLED THEM HERE, I'M NOT PLANNING ON HIDING IT, GOTOU

HANA-CHAN..

THERE'S MORE THAN ONE CULPRIT ..

IS THAT ALRIGHT, OOTA-SAN?

ALL OF THEM ARE KIDS WHO DON'T STAND OUT.
SEVERAL OTHERS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED, ASIDE FROM THE PEOPLE ALREADY HERE.
T-THEY ARE ALL STRANGERS TO EACH OTHER?
YEAH. THE PROBLEM GOES FURTHER THAN THAT. ALL THE KIDS WHO WERE ARRESTED HAVE NEVER MET, EITHER ONLINE OR IN REAL LIFE.
SEVE-RAL ...?!
SO IT'S A SERIES OF INCIDENTS INVOLVING A PHANTOM ATTACKER— NO WONDER THE DETAILS OF THE REQUEST WERE INCOM-PLETE.
A SERIES OF SIMILAR INCIDENTS ARE BEING COMMITTED BY COMPLETE STRAN-GERS, AND THE KIDS WHO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED SAID NOTHING APART FROM READILY ADMITTING THEIR GUILT. THE INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT IS IN A MESS.
SO IT WOULD SEEM.

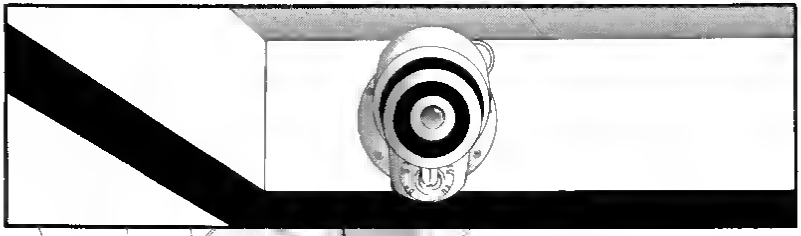
THE INCIDENTS CONTINUE, DESPITE THE ARREST OF THE CULPRITS. IT'S A GAME OF CAT AND MOUSE
EXACTLY. WE DON'T EVEN HAVE ENOUGH MANPOWER TO DO PROFILING AT THE MOMENT
OOTA-SAN, COULD YOU ARRANGE SOMEWHERE WHERE WE CAN SEE THE INTERROGATION OF BOTH MEGUMI-SAN AND THE OTHER TEENAGER AT THE SAME TIME?
IF YOU CONSIDER THE STRANGE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INCIDENTS, THERE HAS TO BE A SIMILARITY BETWEEN THE CULPRITS, ASIDE FROM THE RUMOURS OF THE VAMPIRE.
WHAT?
IF IT'S ANYTHING TO DO WITH RUMOURS, THEN WE'LL HELP
OOTA-SAN! WHAT WILL OUR SUPERIORS SAY IF YOU STEP OUT OF LINE?
TSK... RUMOURS, HUH. FINE

ガンガン
I'M THE MIDDLEMAN BETWEEN THE RUMOUR SHOP AND THE POLICE. I'M IN CHARGE OF THEM.
WE'RE AT OUR WITS' END ANYWAY

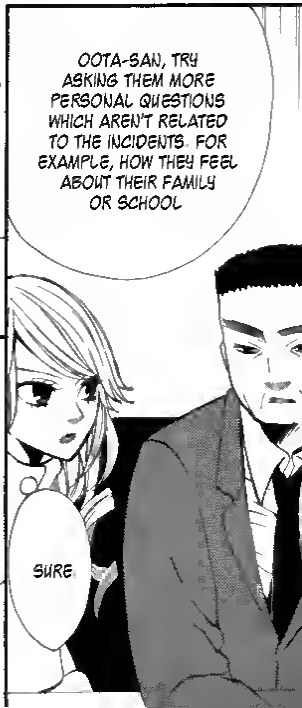
OKAY, LET'S CONTINUE WITH THE INVESTI-GATION.

...DON'T WORRY, MEGUMI-SAN.
OKAY

I'LL GIVE ORDERS IF SOMETHING COMES UP.



THEY'RE NEVER AT HOME. THEY'RE JUST STRANGERS TO ME
HOW HAS YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR FAMILY BEEN RECENTLY?


OOTA-SAN, TRY ASKING THEM MORE PERSONAL QUESTIONS WHICH AREN'T RELATED TO THE INCIDENTS. FOR EXAMPLE, HOW THEY FEEL ABOUT THEIR FAMILY OR SCHOOL
SURE.

I'M DOING WELL. I GET ALONG WITH MY CLASSMATES, BUT IT'S NOT WHERE I BELONG.
NOBUO-KUN, HOW DO YOU FIND SCHOOL?

I LUST FOR BLOOD, I'M NOT NORMAL
I CAN'T SURVIVE WITHOUT DRINKING BLOOD
I WASN'T MEANT TO BE BROUGHT UP BY THEM
I'M JUST A CHILD ADOPTED BY THAT FAMILY
THESE TWO...

OOTA-SAN, PLEASE ASK THEM THIS...
WHO WOULD YOU...
...CALL YOUR "TRUE PARENT"?

THE BLOOD OF THE GREAT VAMPIRE IS IN ME.
I HAVE THE BLOOD OF THE GREAT VAMPIRE IN ME.
!?

BLOOD OF THE GREAT VAMPIRE?!
WHAT... WHAT'S GOING ON?!
...OOTA-SAN
THIS IS PROBABLY "DENIAL OF ORIGIN".
DENIAL OF ORIGIN? WHAT'S THAT?
DENYING THAT ONE'S OWN PARENTS ARE THEIR REAL PARENTS, THINKING THAT THEY HAVE NOBLE BLOOD IN THEM.
IT'S A DELUSION WHERE THEY DENY THEIR BIRTH.

THEY SAID THAT THEY HAVE THE "BLOOD OF A VAMPIRE"...
ALTHOUGH THEY'VE NEVER MET...
YES, THEY HAVE THE SAME TYPE OF PERSONALITY
THEY BOTH HAVE THE SAME DELU-SION?!

...HANA-CHAN. TO PUT IT SIMPLY, WHAT'S THE COMMON FACTOR WHICH TIES THESE TWO POINTS TOGETHER?
CLAIMING TO BE A VAMPIRE IS ONE THING, BUT IT'S UNTHINKABLE FOR A RELATIVELY LIMITED DELUSION SUCH AS "HAVING THE BLOOD OF A VAMPIRE" TO COINCIDE

IT'S RUMOURS
THE KEY TO UNDERSTANDING THE PURPOSE OF THE VAMPIRE RUMOUR LIES HERE

ナンカガ
IN THE END, NOTHING'S CHANGED... SHEESH
ガバーン
WE'VE GOT TO PUT A STOP TO THIS AWFUL 2D HORROR STORY, HUH.
...LET'S PUT AN END TO IT.
THE INCIDENTS ARE STILL HAPPENING, THE NUMBER OF VICTIMS ARE INCREASING... AND SO ARE THE CULPRITS

IN THAT CASE... THIS IS A FURTHER REQUEST FROM THE POLICE.
FIND "THE TRUTH BEHIND THE VAMPIRE RUMOUR".

...SO, THAT'S WHY HEMURA WENT OUT ALONE.
ANYWAY, IT'S A WORTH-LESS RUMOUR AS USUAL
Aha.
THAT'S BECAUSE THE OPPONENT IS SOME WORTH-LESS "VAMPIRE RUMOUR"
YES, THE SITUATION CALLED FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION, SO I HAD HIM GET READY RIGHT AWAY
THEN LET'S PLAY... I MEAN, COUNTER THEM A IF THEY ARE WORTHLESS.

IT'S SIMILAR ...
THAT "SONG" INCIDENT...
COLLECTIVE MOVEMENT WITH AN ELUSIVE IDENTITY...
IT'S JUST AN ACT! "HE" SEEMS TO BE THANKFUL TO UEMURA-KUN, TOO.
TAKITAROU WAS PRETTY ANNOYED ABOUT "THAT KID" HELPING OUT~
THAT CHILD IS SMART AND ADORABLE.

LONG TIME NO SEE, CROW

THE SERVANT OF GOD, THE SILVER PRIEST WHO TAMED ST VINCENT'S CROW.
THE VAMPIRE HUNTER WHO CAN "RETURN A VAMPIRE TO BEING HUMAN" WITH HIS HOLY POWERS...

HAS ARRIVED
IN THIS TOWN...

SHIT!

THE STUDENT COUNCIL AND THOSE ONLINE GAMERS...
TREAT ME HOWEVER THEY LIKE...
AND DOESN'T THAT MAKE YOU UNCOMFORT-ABLE?
AZA
!?

にこっ
HEY!

Y... YOU ARE?
...I'M GOING TO AWAKEN YOUR "BLOOD" FROM THIS WRONGFUL REALITY...
I AM YOUR REAL PARENT.
W... WHAT THE?
...WHY DO I FEEL SO...
...UNEASY?!

BEING WARY OF SAEKI'S EXISTENCE
THERE'S NO NEED TO BE AFRAID
...IS A SIGN OF BEING "SPECIAL".
UWASAYA
2 II END